



# St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School



*Photo courtesy msp photography*

## ANNUAL REPORT 2019

### ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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## *Vision Statement*

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School, in partnership with parents, provides a Christian environment where children are educated to take their place in the Church and society.

## *Mission Statement*

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School aims to allow each person to achieve their full potential in a Christian Community which values justice, respect and courage.

## *Principal's Message*

It is with pleasure that I present the 2019 St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School Annual Report. St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School prides itself on the relationship it has with the community and works in partnership with parents to provide the best educational outcomes for all students. This Annual report outlines the significant activities and achievements within the school community.

There have been many achievements and noteworthy activities throughout the year. Our most significant celebration was the biannual 'We Are One' concert. Other achievements include our continued participation in the Digital Technologies Project with ACARA, which lead to many engaging and exciting activities and the empowerment of staff in this curriculum area.

Other noteworthy activities for 2019 include the invitation to lead the singing of the National Anthem at the Australia Day Awards ceremony at Fred's Pass, the P&F Art Show and School

disco, the schools participation in the Bombing of Darwin ceremony, the Anzac Day march and the Rural Christmas Carols, the sporting clinics offered by outside agencies, partnership with Palmerston Tennis and the MacKillop Instrumental program.

St Francis is recognised in the community as a Catholic school that has strong pastoral care, fostering the spiritual, social and academic growth of students from diverse backgrounds. MindUp, a classroom-based social and emotional learning program (SEL) designed to enhance self-awareness, social awareness, attention, self-regulation, problem-solving, and pro-social behaviour, has supported the students in having stillness, paying attention, staying on task, regulating and making good choices so that we can teach them how to academically excel in school was implemented in our classrooms this year.

These achievements would not have been realised without the support and participation of all members of the school community. Our thanks to the School Board, the wider community, Parish community and Catholic Education Office. Without such wonderful support we would not be able to achieve such outstanding results.

This Annual Report provides us the opportunity to reflect on the year just passed and to celebrate the achievements of our community. I would like to especially thank students, teachers and parents for their individual and collective contributions to our school and look forward to continuing our work together and celebrating our achievements.

Melanie Bolwell  
Principal

## School Profile

St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School is a co-educational Catholic Primary school catering for students in Transition to Year 6. An Early Learning Centre for 2-5 year olds is also located on the school grounds and works collaboratively with the school.

Most of the student population is drawn from the rural area.

Student enrolment at August 2019

Year level	T	1	2	3	4	5	6	
Girls	10	5	6	7	3	6	9	
Boys	7	9	6	6	7	10	15	
Number of students	17	14	12	13	10	16	24	106

Indigenous Students enrolled: 13

Indigenous Students Attendance: 84.6%

Attendance rate for the year: 94.3%

Initial contact for short periods of non-attendance is followed up by the admin staff and/or the classroom teacher. Longer periods are followed up by a member of the school leadership team.



Photo courtesy msp photography

## Staffing Information

The school has 9 teachers, including the Principal, Deputy Principal, APRE, part-time Inclusion Support and Release teachers. The Admin staff consists of a full-time Admin person and Finance Officer, and a part-time book keeper for the Early Learning Centre (ELC) and Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) program. There are 5 Inclusion Support Assistants (ISAs) and a Library Technician. A CatholicCare Counselor visits our school for one day per week. The school is cleaned and the gardens and grounds are maintained through contractors.

Our Early Learning Centre (ELC) continues to work collaboratively with the school. The school Principal is also the Nominated Supervisor of the ELC. On the floor in the Centre there is an Assistant Director and an additional five other.

The Canteen Manager continues to be full-time and works for both the school and ELC on a 60-40 basis.

Our Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) program is licensed and catered for 50 students from 7:00am until 8:00am and then from 2:50pm until 5.45pm each school evening. Four staff were employed in the OSHC for the year.

Summary of staff profile:

	Head Count	FTE
Teaching staff	12	9.3
Non-teaching staff	8	7.4
Total	20	16.7

## Staff qualifications:

All are registered with the NT Teacher Registration Board.

Summary of teacher qualifications:

Bachelor or degree equivalent	9 (100%)
Post graduate qualifications	11 (44%)
Other qualifications	6 (66%)

## *2019 Highlights*

2019 has brought many exciting events and highlights to our school community.

- Our biannual 'We Are One' Concert, A Night at the Theatre
- Winning the combined Catholic Schools Public Speaking competition

The many excursions, incursions and visitors that the school has welcomed and enjoyed also provided students and staff with a variety of experiences. These included;

- Earth Science from Western Australia
- Red Cross Pillow Project
- Coolalinga Central Chess Tournament
- Joffa
- Science Questacon Circus
- Darwin Entertainment Centre
- MJR Year 5 combined Catholic Schools Retreat day
- Parliament House
- Swimming program
- Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory
- Territory Wildlife Park
- Life Ed Van
- Catholic Schools Public Speaking

- PARRS

Our annual events that are part of St Francis of Assisi's culture;

- Celebrating the Feast of St Francis
  - Celebrating Shrove Tuesday with the whole community
  - Whole School and Class Masses, Liturgies and celebrating our faith and community
  - Celebration of the Sacraments with the Parish
  - Transition Orientation
  - T-2 Swimming program
  - Choir singing at the Rural Christmas Carols
  - Chief Minister Luncheon with the students at the Hidden Valley V8's
  - Harmony Day Celebrations
  - Holy Week celebration
  - ANZAC Day March
  - Remembrance Day Liturgy
  - Book Week Parade-Reading is my Secret Power
  - Science Week
  - Literacy and Numeracy Week
  - Sports Carnival
  - World Teachers Day
- Other events include;
- Music; Count Us In
  - Year 6 Graduation
  - Tennis program with NT Tennis
  - MacKillop Catholic College Instrument program
  - Cash for Containers program
  - Sporting clinics offered by outside agencies
  - PARRS events
  - Fred's Pass Show
  - Smile-a-Mile at the Village Green



## Teaching and Learning

Teaching and Learning at St Francis of Assisi Catholic Primary School is based on the Australian Curriculum. Our Diocesan Religious Education program 'Journey in Faith' is followed in all classes from Transition to Year Six. 2019 saw some of our classes' trialing the new 'Journey in Faith Units'.

Learning progress is reported to parents using a five point scale for each learning area. This is undertaken twice a year according to Federal Government legislation and Diocesan requirements. Provision is also made for parents to discuss with class teachers the nature of the report.

The staff assessed and reported to parents using the Australian Curriculum Achievement standards.

A number of our students attract Federal Government funding for inclusion support. Our Inclusion Support Coordinator assists class teachers to prepare Educational Adjustment Plans (EAPs) for these students. These are then discussed at specially arranged parent meetings throughout the year. This approach allows students to be engaged in learning

experiences that will specifically meet their needs. The ISA's in the school, work to the needs of the students; this may involve inclusion work in the class, one to one withdrawal or small groups.

Teachers include a variety of assessment strategies in their teaching programs to provide multiple sources of information about student progress and achievement. External assessment results (NAPLAN) are sent to families at the end of term 3. Student progress is communicated to parents on a regular basis through parent/ teacher interviews, evidence of Learning folders and academic reports.

### National testing

In 2019 our Year 3 and Year 5 students sat tests as part of the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy, commonly known as NAPLAN. The following tables show the school's results; all scores are averages.

Area	All Australian Schools	All NT Schools	St Francis of Assisi
Y5 Numeracy	496	429	463
Y5 Writing	474	395	426
Y5 Reading	506	429	458
Y5 Spelling	501	430	469
Y5 Grammar/P	499	410	492
Y3 Numeracy	408	333	372
Y3 Writing	423	338	412
Y3 Reading	432	352	405
Y3 Spelling	419	334	400
Y3 Grammar/P	440	342	427

## *Student Welfare*

In 2019 our goal was to implement a school wide pastoral care and social emotional program that promoted wellbeing in students and a sense of belonging and connection. We also reestablished our fortnightly pastoral care groups, integrating the 'Making Jesus Real' philosophy.

We continued to access the Inclusion Support consultant from the Catholic Education Office on a regular basis. Working very closely with St Francis' Inclusion Support Coordinator diagnosing any learning issue/s with students in our School. The School Counselor (CatholicCare) has also been a valuable part of this team.

The school encourages student leadership within the community; roles include School Captains, Sport Captains and SRC representatives (Student representative Council).

In 2019 the Year 5 students leadership program continued. This gave the students the opportunity to learn and develop leadership skills and qualities which they will be encouraged to implement in the following year.

## *General interest items*

### **Early Learning Centre**



*Playing outside*

St Francis of Assisi Early Learning Centre (ELC) offers an educational care program for children aged two to five. It is a small, family orientated, high quality accredited centre with qualified and experienced staff.

The centre provides modern facilities in a lovely bush setting within a safe environment. The centre has access to school resources and activities such as library, computers assemblies and school banking. The centre implements the Early Years Learning Framework/Emergent Curriculum and offers a Preschool program.



In 2019 the service received grant funding. These included

- Long Day Care Upgrade grant
- Toy and Equipment Grant

### **Teacher professional learning**

The 2019 action plan included goals;

- Ensure high quality teaching is achieved through knowing thy impact and professional development for teaching and support staff, enabling us to be more confident in our abilities to help students experience success in their learning.
- Provide regular meaningful feedback to students and their families

For 2019 we have reviewed and implemented a different approach to planning and programming the content of the Australian Curriculum. We redesigned the process to create more integrated and 'connected' units of work for our students.

The process included:

1. Each achievement standard for a year level being printed onto a hexagon.
2. Teachers came together and collaboratively made natural connections, joining the hexagons to create clusters.
3. A central focus was then chosen by our innovative teachers who created units of work that inspired both them as teachers as well as their students to grow as learners.

The continued practise of Professional Learning Communities (PLC) created opportunities for staff to work in collaborative teams to achieve a common goal around teaching and learning. After the completion of the Maths Assessment Interviews (MAI) throughout the school; the staff focus for the PLC was number.

Throughout the year the staff worked with ACARA embedding digital technologies into the curriculum; including a scope and sequence, modelling lessons and developing units and resources.

A member of the school's executive leadership also engaged in an advance leadership program provided by Women and Leadership Australia.

The program immersed participants in a range of high quality professional development courses, advisory services, networking channels, and on-going research.

The Data Informed Practitioner continued in the position of coordinating the school data collection and lead student improvement through informed pedagogy in English and Mathematics.

Other professional learning opportunities that staff engaged in included

- Catholic Identity
- Catholic Story
- Inquiry in the Classroom
- Network meetings
- Making Jesus Real
- THRASS

## Building projects and other improvements to grounds and facilities (including ICT)

The main Projects for 2019 were the

- Painting of the Early Learning Centre and Preschool block
- Upgrade to the front garden and garden beds around school
- Renovation to Early Learning outdoor space and soft fall

Within Technologies we continued to maintain our resources and facilities available at the school. Interactive whiteboards and projectors have been upgraded and maintained. Purchase of new desktops for computer lab were made. And an audit for LAN infrastructure upgrade was completed.



## WH&S

The Key Performance Indicators that were identified for 2019 included;

- Fire Warden training to be completed
- Emergency Evacuation procedures reviewed
- Hazard management on walkways – several options investigated - rubber matting installed
- Risk assessment completion demystified for teaching staff

## Parents and Community

Our parents and the wider community are integral to St Francis of Assisi. Our vision statement refers to 'working in partnerships with families.' Throughout 2019 the community provided opportunities for the strengthening of these partnerships.

These included

- Parent information evenings
- Mother's Day mass and morning tea
- Father's Day breakfast and Mass
- Harmony Day celebrations
- Stall at Fred's Pass Show

In 2019, the P&F supported the school in the upgrade of Information Communication Technologies throughout the school. Overall \$9746 was raised throughout the year.

Parents are regularly involved with the students as helpers in the classroom and helping with specific jobs. They also assist with the coordination of the following fund raising events:

- Mother's Day Stall
- Father's Day Stall
- Easter Raffle
- Christmas Raffle
- Art Show
- Disco
- Sports Day Café
- Second Hand Bookstall



## *School Board*

St Francis of Assisi's School Board is made up of Parish Priest, Principal, Teacher representative, Chairperson, Parish representative and four parent representatives.

The school board met monthly and provided valuable support and advice to the principal particularly in matters related to finance, policy ratification, and general discussions.

We thank board members for their faithful support for the school.



## *Financial Summary*

School income is derived from three sources: Australian Government, Northern Territory Government and other sources including parent contributions.

The school's main expenditure is on staff salaries. Projects and programs that received special funding in 2019 included:

- Sporting Schools
- \$4\$
- Container Deposit Scheme
- Data Informed Practitioner Project
- ACARA Digital Technology Project
- Science Week Grants
- Building Better Schools
- 1:10 Student Device Project

- Indigenous Advancement Strategy

We have continued our efforts with the fee collection rate; hence our ability to purchase the many resources purchased throughout the year.

Our Finance Officer prepares monthly financial reports for the Catholic Education Office. These are also presented to the monthly School Board meetings. We had an independent audit by KPMG at the start of year. The report and recommendations were presented at the School Board Annual General Meeting. At the end of year budget meetings for 2020 were held with the CEO Finance Staff and Deputy Director - School Services.

# Parental Feedback

Through our parent survey the overall feedback from the community included;

## Strengths

- Pastoral care and wellbeing of students.
- School offers a wide range of opportunities for parents to be involved in the school community.
- School buildings are well maintained

## Areas for improvement

- Connections between the School and Parish
- Providing opportunities for students to be extended in their learning

## ENDORSEMENTS

 16/04/20

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*Mrs Melanie Bolwell, Principal*

*date*

 16/04/20

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*Diane Relton, School Board Chair*

*date*

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*Greg O'Mullane, Director Catholic Education*

*date*